

Appl. No. 09/495,622
Amdt. dated April 15, 2005
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2178

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 were pending. Claim 8 is hereby canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1-7 and 9-21 will be pending.

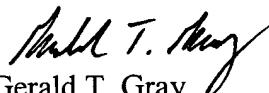
Claim 8 was indicated as being allowable in the Examiner's Answer mailed March 7, 2005. Accordingly, Applicants hereby cancel claim 8 so that the remaining claims may proceed to Appeal. It is believed that this amendment should be entered as it merely cancels an allowed claim and does not require a new search, does not raise the issue of new matter, does not present new claims, and does not otherwise introduce new issues. Applicants reserve the right to file a Reply Brief to further discuss the rejection to claims 1-7 and 9-21 prior to jurisdiction being turned over to the Appeal Board. Applicants also reserve the right to file a continuation application including canceled claim 8 and other claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


Gerald T. Gray
Reg. No. 41,797

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 925-472-5000
Fax: 415-576-0300
GTG:sea
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